

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 05882 01 OF 02 220444Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /105 W
-----026805 220451Z /11

R 220350Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9157
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 5882

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, MASS, UR, AF, PK, IR, CH
SUBJ: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON PRESENT SITUATION IN
AFGHANISTAN

1. DURING MY INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR
ALEXANDER M. PUZANOV JULY 16, HE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING
ANSWERS AND OBSERVATIONS TO MY QUESTIONS:

A) SOVIET-AFGHAN RELATIONS: PUZANOV STATED THAT THERE HAD
NEVER BEEN ANY SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN KABUL
AND MOSCOW DURING THE SIXTY YEARS SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WERE ESTABLISHED DURING THE TIME OF KING AMANULLAH AND
V.I. LENIN. HE OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ENJOYED FRIENDLY,
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE ROYAL AND DAUDIST REGIMES WHICH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 05882 01 OF 02 220444Z

HAD PRECEDED THE CURRENT TARAKI GOVERNMENT, AND EXPECTED TO
CONTINUE THIS POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEW REGIME.

B) SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS: PUZANOV EXPLAINED THAT THE
RECENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS
HERE HAS BEEN NECESSARY IN ORDER TO TRAIN THE AFGHANS TO USE
ARMORED, AIR FORCE, AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BEING SUPPLIED

BY THE USSR. HE CLAIMED THAT THE RATE OF INCREASE OF ADVISORS IS NOT SO HIGH AS THAT WHICH FOLLOWED DAOUD'S 1973 OVERTHROW OF THE MONARCHY.

C) SOVIET ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: PUZANOV EXPLAINED THAT THE FORTY-ODD SOVIET-AFGHAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS SIGNED SINCE THE APRIL 27 REVOLUTION WERE ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE. ALTHOUGH MOST ARE RELATED TO THE BASIC ASSISTANCE COMMITMENT MADE TO FORMER PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD DURING HIS 1975 STATE VISIT TO THE USSR, SOME DATE BACK TO THE PRE-1973 MONARCHIAL ERA. PUZANOV STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THESE PROPOSED PROJECTS HAD BECOME STALLED DURING THE DAOUDISTS PERIOD FOR "A NUMBER OF REASONS."

D) PROJECTED BRIDGE OVER THE AMU DARYA (OXUS): PUZANOV PREDICTED THAT THE PROJECTED HARIATAN BRIDGE SHOULD BE READY TO CONVEY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC OVER THE RIVER FRONTIER BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND THE SOVIET UNION IN FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS."

E) THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA): PUZANOV DID NOT THINK THAT POLITBURO-SECRETARIAT-CENTRAL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION OF THE PDPA NECESSARILY RELATED THE AFGHAN PARTY TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION (CPSU). HE THOUGHT THAT "ALL PARTIES IN THE WORLD" HAVE SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, PUZANOV

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 05882 01 OF 02 220444Z

SAID THERE ARE NO PARTY TIES BETWEEN THE PDPA AND THE CPSU. HE EXPLAINED THAT, AFTER ITS 1967 SPLIT, THE AFGHAN PARTY HAD DISSOLVED INTO "POLITICAL GROUPINGS" WHICH COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS PARTIES. SINCE THE KHALQISTS AND THE PARCHAMISTS ONLY RECENTLY REUNITED, I.E., IN MID-1977, THERE HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CPSU TO REACT TO THIS EVENT. THE AFGHAN PARTY HAD NEVER PARTICIPATED IN ANY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MEETINGS.

F) MEMBERSHIP OF THE PDPA POLITBURO: PUZANOV THOUGHT THAT THERE ARE "EITHER NINE OR ELEVEN MEMBERS." DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH CHAIRMAN NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI, HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LATTER HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE POLITBURO POSITIONS WHICH HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY (THE DIPLOMATICALLY EXILED PARCHAMIST LEADERS) BABRAK KARMAL AND NOOR AHMAD NOOR. IT IS POSSIBLE, HE CONJECTURED, THAT THESE TWO MIGHT RETAIN THEIR POLITBURO SEATS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 05882 02 OF 02 220445Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /105 W
-----026825 220450Z /10

R 220350Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9158
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 5882

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

G) GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING: ALTHOUGH ARGUING THAT THE GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) ARE BEING MADE BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHICH HE INITIALLY DEFINED AS THE COUNTRY'S "STATE AND LEGISLATIVE ORGAN", PUZANOV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PDPA PROVIDES OVERALL POLITICAL GUIDANCE. PUZANOV WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE AFGHAN CABINET AS THE "EXECUTIVE ORGAN" AND THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AS THE "LEGISLATIVE ELEMENT" OF THE GOVERNMENT.

H) REGIONAL SECURITY: PUZANOV NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THERE WERE NO "BORDER PROBLEMS" BETWEEN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN. OBSERVING THAT AFGHANISTAN REQUIRES PEACE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ITS DOMESTIC CHALLENGES, HE ASSERTED THAT THE USSR ENDORSED THE AFGHAN REGIME'S STATED INTENTION TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 05882 02 OF 02 220445Z

NEGOTIATE PEACEFULLY KABUL'S MAJOR "POLITICAL DIFFERENCE" WITH PAKISTAN (I.E., THE "PUSHTUNISTAN" ISSUE). PUZANOV WELCOMED WARMLY INDIA'S WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH AFGHANISTAN. HE NOTED BENIGNLY THAT

KABUL'S RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) ARE "NORMAL." PUZANOV RECALLED THAT THE PRC HAD OFFERED THE DAOUDIST REGIME A 60-MILLION-DOLLAR LINE-OF-CREDIT WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN FULLY COMMITTED. HE CITED AS CHINESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS HERE: IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN PARWAN PROVINCE, TEXTILE-MAKING ASSISTANCE, AND A HOSPITAL AT KANDAHAR.

I) AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE: PUZANOV NOTED THAT IMPOVERISHED AFGHANISTAN WASNOT WORKING ON A FIVE-YEAR-PLAN WHICH WILL REQUIRE HELP FROM AS MANY FRIENDLY FOREIGN DONORS AS POSSIBLE. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE REGIME'S GOALS WILL BE MET.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PUZANOV WAS OBVIOUSLY DISSEMBLING ON SOME POINTS, SUCH AS THE INFLUX OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE PDPA, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS TRYING HARD TO PORTRAY POST-REVOLUTIONARY AFGHANISTAN AS A COUNTRY IN NEED OF OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, AS A NATION WHICH NEEDS PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AND AS A NON-DESTABILIZING FACTOR IN THIS REGION.

DUBS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL05882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-0595
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780730/aaaaaznt.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6a58a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1918710
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON PRESENT SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, MASS, UR, AF, PK, IR, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6a58a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014